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Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000800050004-0

*(USED IN PART)*

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DOCUMENT NO. 17  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. U  
DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S  
NEXT REVIEW DATE:  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 1-16-80

31990

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13 March 1957

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~~BACKGROUND~~ - NEAR EAST

- I. Gaza Issue: At present, Egypt appears to be planning a return, but only a token return, to the Gaza Strip--presumably both to assert rights under the 1949 armistice agreement (see annex) and to provide "victory" for home consumption.
- A. Near and UN assistant Sec. Gen. Banche have reportedly agreed that Egypt will take over civil administration of the Strip (details of agreement not yet available).
- B. Norwegian delegate at UN says Egypt intends to send only small group of officers, together with Governor-designate, into Strip in next few days.
1. Actually, no Egyptian Army regulars are near enough to move into Strip (except by air) in near future.
- C. Meanwhile, Hammarskjold is urging Egyptians to go slow: no today's raids, no return of Egyptian troops, minimum of administrative measures.

II.

25X6A



this ship could have already passed the Tiran straits.

25X6A

[REDACTED]

III. Egypt continues to insist that the straits and Gulf are Egyptian territorial waters.

A.  
25X6

[REDACTED]

B. Only Egyptian naval forces stationed south of Suez Canal are a single frigate and 7 to 10 motor torpedo boats.

C. UNEF forces now occupy former Egyptian ground positions interdicting the straits.

D.  
25X6

[REDACTED]

1. However, after 8 Mar meeting between Hollet and Macmillan, UK Foreign Office stated that both countries agreed the Israelis should be "dissuaded" from forcing a passage with armed escorts.

IV. Egypt's internal problems:

[REDACTED]

25X1C

projected Wafdist-Monarchist coup against the Nasser regime.

25X1C A.

[REDACTED]

that Nasser's

25X1C

successes are weakening his opposition,

[REDACTED]

1. Plotters are still shooting for mid-March attempt, and preparations are in final stages.
2. Plotters now claim some 50 officers, in command various unnamed units throughout Egypt, involved in plot )  
(with another 50 officers to be brought into play should first attempt fail).
3. Plotters still claim police all "screwed up".

[REDACTED]

25X1C

B. [REDACTED] a successful Waftist coup presents the dismal prospect of a government sponsored by a leaderless Waft party, a weak king (nominee: only son of Egypt's last Khedive, Prince Abd al-Husain), a weak prime minister, and a corrupt parliament.

C. We continue to believe that the success of a coup against Naeir depends upon significant army support.

1. As yet we have no really clear idea just how extensive the plotters' alleged army support is.

V. Jordan Issue: Formal termination of Anglo-Jordanian Treaty on 13 Mar raises prospect of a new round of political maneuvering between King Hussein and the Nabulsi cabinet.

A. King Hussein now wishes to obtain the resignation of left-wing cabinet members and of Nabulsi himself.

B. Simultaneously, the king is under pressure from Army nationalists who want to take over control of the police-- one of the throne's main props.

C. Despite these pressures, Hussein remains confident that he can manipulate the splits and rivalries within his government to his own advantage.

1. The king reportedly will insist that cabinet leftists resign by 20 March.

2. Nabulsi, who wants to keep his job, is trying to stall and head off a showdown.

D. Meanwhile, opportunistic Army chief of staff Bawar, and some other army officers, appear desirous of promoting a breakdown of Jordan's civilian leadership, a dissolution of the